

is to stop them from getting into that situation in the very first place. And it certainly wouldn't be done unilaterally from the White House with no say from this Congress on the \$150 billion program.

Now, even worse, the benefits of just canceling or pausing student debt are mainly going to those at the top of the income range. Graduates with the most debt also tend to be those with the longest degrees and they are now doctors or lawyers. These people, doctors and lawyers, might have plenty of debt now, but people with graduate degrees are also much more likely to have a higher salary and much higher lifetime earnings.

Are the two-thirds of the Americans without college degrees somehow less deserving of a free \$10,000 or \$50,000 in canceled debt than doctors or lawyers? And what about those people that have already paid off their loans? Are they going to bear the costs of people that borrowed too much when this is forgiven at the \$10,000 or \$50,000 level?

I am sure many Iowans would be happy to have their car loans or mortgages paid off. Is there any thought about what this can lead to? It is pretty clear. Canceling debt is not a solution. Instead, I have been glad to see many of my colleagues on both sides of the aisle join my bills to prevent excess student debt in the very first place.

We need to help students by giving them the information they need to find the best college for their needs at a cost they can afford. Otherwise, forgiving student debt is a slippery slope to a lot of other interests wanting debt forgiveness.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The majority leader is recognized.

UKRAINE

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I want to begin by responding to a particularly disgusting comment made over the weekend by Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov. As the Russian Army continues slaughtering civilians, Foreign Minister Lavrov did what many others who now reside in the dustbin of history have done before him—resort to anti-Semitism to defend his nation's action.

As the highest ranking, Jewish elected official in the United States, I take particular umbrage at what Mr. Lavrov said. Asked on Italian television yesterday to defend his nation's invasion of Ukraine, Mr. Lavrov repeated the deranged conspiracy that Ukraine is dominated by Neo-Nazis and dismissed President Zelenskyy's own Jewish heritage by saying:

I believe Hitler also had Jewish origins.

He also added:

We have been hearing the wise Jewish people say that the biggest anti-Semites are the Jews themselves.

I have only one word for this: "sickening." It is sickening. Mr. Lavrov's comments are just sickening and deserve to be condemned by all who oppose the dangers of anti-Semitism. They tap into the very old and very poisonous notion that the Jewish people themselves were the architects of the worst human atrocities in modern history even when they were aimed at Jews themselves.

Mr. Foreign Minister, you are fooling no one. The war crimes committed by Russia are as plain as day for the world to see. And to justify Russia's violence with appeals to anti-Semitism is sickening; it is dangerous. It is chilling to see Russia's top diplomat—he should not be called a diplomat after saying that. It is chilling to see Russia's top foreign policy person so casually spread disinformation about the history of the Holocaust in order to advance Mr. Putin's political and military agenda.

I condemn Mr. Lavrov's comments in the strongest possible terms, and every individual who wishes to guard against the poisons of anti-Semitism should do the same.

Now, Madam President, over the weekend, Speaker PELOSI led a delegation of House Members to Ukraine and met with President Zelenskyy to pledge our country's support for the Ukrainian people.

We have the obligation to demonstrate that support by approving another round of Ukrainian emergency funding. Now that President Biden has made a formal request for \$33 billion, our appropriators are hard at work turning the request into legislation. It is my hope that a bipartisan agreement can be reached very soon and that the Senate can begin processing this aid package on the floor as early as next week.

Quickly approving this emergency funding for Ukraine is essential to helping the people of Ukraine in their fight against Russia. Again, I expect both sides to work quickly, decisively, and with bipartisan cooperation to get this aid out the door and onto the President's desk, just as we did for the first round of aid back in March.

I will also work to include a provision that arms the Federal Government with the tools needed to liquidate assets the United States seized from Russian oligarchs, such as yachts, mansions, private jets, art collections, and the like.

Specifically, the Senate should expand existing forfeiture laws that will turn up the heat on these corrupt individuals who made their own ill-gotten gains from the vicious, evil, dictatorial Vladimir Putin. We need to go after these crooked oligarchs. They have gotten rich off Putin's regime. Their ill-gotten gains should have no safe ref-

uge within the United States, and it would be great if the proceeds from these assets would be used to support the Ukrainian people. I think that is the right way to go, and I will work to see that the Senate acts in this space.

Two months into the war, it is clear that support from the United States and our allies has been essential in helping Ukraine resist Russia's invasion. But the bloodshed is very likely far from over, and the cost borne by the Ukrainian people has been immense. According to the U.N., at least 3,000 civilians have been killed since the start of the war, and the true number is unfortunately, sadly, far higher than that in all likelihood.

The United States thus has a moral obligation to give the Ukrainian people the tools they need for as long as they need them, more money for Javelins, Stingers, howitzers, Switchblade unmanned aerial munitions, and much more. And make no mistake, the Senate will move swiftly to get an emergency funding package passed and sent to the President's desk.

CORONAVIRUS

Madam President, on COVID, now, in addition to providing emergency funding to Ukraine, the Senate must also keep prioritizing another round of funds to fight COVID and keep our families safe.

On Ukraine funding and COVID funding, Republican obstruction will not serve the American people. Instead of threatening political games, I urge Senate Republicans to work with us to get moving on COVID funding A-S-A-P.

Over the past few months, the United States has made unmistakable progress in getting life closer to normal than at any other point since the spring of 2020. But as we all know, all it takes is another nasty variant to force new closures of our schools, our businesses, our churches, our communities.

Meanwhile, every day that we don't act to pass new COVID funding is another day that other nations place orders on the remaining supply of vaccines, testing, and therapeutics—in particular, therapeutics.

God forbid another variant begins spreading across the country, and we don't have the tools, the medicines, the vaccines, the testing in place to respond simply because our Republican friends have blocked our ability to fund now the ability to buy those materials, those vaccines, those therapeutics, and keep them on the ready if and when a new variant hits.

If Republicans continue to obstruct more funding, then a few months from now we could be in the terrible situation of not having enough vaccines to save lives, enough tests or testing to monitor disease, and enough therapeutics to reduce the severity of cases of COVID when they come.

Let me say that one more time. If Republicans continue to obstruct more funding now, then a few months from now, we could be in a terrible situation of not having vaccines to save lives,